

**EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The School Committee meeting for August was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 in the Town Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:10 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day and Merrill Friedemann, as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Attorney Matthew Oliverio. Mrs. Cienki arrived at the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comments**

Mark Zito, senior at East Greenwich High School, spoke to the Committee about a letter he sent them concerning the principal position at East Greenwich High School. He noted that morale is not at an all time high. He stated that he wanted to be on the selection committee but was not chosen to do so. He asked the Committee to work harder on a settlement for the contract.

Carol Brown, former Director of Special Services thanked the Committee members who met with her. She noted that she is now the Director of Special Services in Westerly. She noted that she is the

only administrator who did not receive a retroactive salary increase for the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Brown stated that this is retaliation, discrimination and unprofessionalism. She also thanked Mrs. Bonnie DiMeo and Mr. McLaren for their kind words. She noted that at the end of the August 2, 2005 meeting, Mrs. Tomekco, a Cole teacher, told her that Mrs. Cienki said that Mrs. Brown bad mouthed all the special education teachers. She noted that this is a lie and she will not tolerate it. Mrs. Brown noted that she always gave the highest regard to her staff, and she applauds the people she met in East Greenwich. She stated that the worst experience she had was dealing with East Greenwich. Mrs. Brown read the editorial in the Pendulum about Helen O'Hara and herself. She stated that she knows she is an excellent special education director, who is recognized in the state. The legion of parents referred to in the editorial is in question. She noted that her job was to provide a free appropriate public education. She also asked why a School Committee member would give out articles about retaliation against special education directors, and a black list. She noted that it is an embarrassment to work in East Greenwich.

Mrs. Edie Dunn, Principal of Frenchtown School, stated that she has worked with Mrs. Brown for the past two years. She stated that the schools have a character education program and an anti-bullying policy and asked what good they were if the adults are not setting the examples for children. She spoke about the behaviors at School Committee meetings and articles in the paper. Mrs. Dunn noted that she supports the work Mrs. Brown has done at Frenchtown.

**Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to close the meeting of August 2, 2005.**

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

### **2.1 June 7, June 21, June 21 Executive Session, July 12, July 12 Executive Session**

**On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the above minutes.**

## **3. Advisory or Subcommittee Reports- There were no reports.**

## **4. Communications to the School Committee**

**4.1 Mr. Martin spoke about Mark Zito's letter and was impressed with his credentials. He would like to have him be a part of the search committee.**

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## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Resignation**

**On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the following resignations: Dr. Jolin thanked Mrs. Dunn for all of her hard work. He noted that she came into the school where there was an expectation of excellence. Mr. Martin stated that Mrs. Dunn's resignation is a loss to the East Greenwich Schools. He noted that we lost a number of administrators and directors but the schools will go on. He noted that Mrs. Dunn was one of the first of six principals**

he worked with during his visits for the schools, and she was always very gracious and cordial.

**5.1.1 Sheila Stewart, Reading Specialist at Cole Middle School, effective 8-22-05**

**5.1.2 Joan Brown, Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective August 3, 2005**

**5.1.3 Edie Dunn, Principal at Frenchtown School, effective August 23, 2005**

## **5.2 Appointments**

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

### **TEACHERS**

**5.2.4 Kathleen Soares, 0.5 Social Worker to service Eldredge, Hanaford and the Preschool at Meadowbrook, pending certification from RIDE, effective 8-30-05**

**5.2.5 Brendan Carniaux, 1.0 Instrumental Music at East Greenwich High School, effective August 30, 2005**

**5.2.6 Maryann DiBattista, 1.0 Reading Specialist for East Greenwich School, for one year only, effective August 30, 2005**

**5.2.7 Rosie Metcalf-Caron, Guidance Counselor at Cole Middle School for the 2005-2 school year, effective August 30, 2005, for one year only.**

**5.2.8 Gertrude Toher, 1.0 Mathematics at East Greenwich High School, for the 2005-2006**

**school year, effective August 30, 2005, pending receipt of her RI certification**

**PARAPROFESSIONALS**

**5.2.9 Amy Maslyn, Special Education Paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective August 31, 2005**

**5.2.10 Tina Hope, Special Education paraprofessional at Cole Middle School, effective**

**August 31, 2005. (This position was approved at the August 2 School Committee meeting).**

**5.2.11 Sharon Taylor, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Administration**

**5.3 Appointment of a full time nurse at Eldredge**

**This was being recommended because of the medical needs of a student with diabetes. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the request for a full time nurse at Eldredge School. The motion passed unanimously.**

**5.4 Tuition rate Increase for 2005-2006 school year**

**Dr. Jolin stated that tuition rates are determined according to the per pupil expenditure excluding the cost of special education and busing. Mr. Gregson feels that the tuition cost should be the per pupil rate, and not be pro-rated. Dr. Ross disagreed and noted that it has been past practice not to charge the full per pupil cost because these students don't cost the**

full pupil cost. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the tuition increase of six (6) percent for the 2005-2006 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5.5 YMCA School's Out Program for the 2005-2006 school year**

This item was tabled until August 30, 2005 meeting.

#### **5.6 Appoint Interim High School Principal**

Mr. Meyers stated that the search committee began their work in May, 53 applicants were screened, six interviews were set up, but they did not find a match. He noted that the position was re-advertised and two candidates were brought forward. Mr. Meyers stated that the two finalists did not

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meet their expectations. The committee then came up with an interim principal, Mr. Michael Levine, who was the high school principal from 1995 to 1999. He noted that Mr. Levine had four successful years there and also had an outstanding record at his last high school. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve Mr. Levine as interim principal. Mr. Martin stated that it is unfortunate that Mrs. Friedemann and Mrs. Cienki are not here this evening, and he is disappointed that with two finalists a vote has been reached to hire in interim principal. Mr. Martin stated that he feels that the school Committee has not done the job they should have done. He felt that the search committee was dominated by School committee members, not educators. Dr. Ross stated that Mr. Levine should have the job permanently. Mr. Meyers responded that

he has been on numerous search committees and they are a lot of work. He noted that the process has been fair and equitable and the committee did its work and did it well. Mr. Bradley stated that the School Committee has his full commitment and tries to accomplish something every day; unfortunately it could not come up with a three year contract.

Mr. Bradley stated that he doesn't feel the School Committee is at the bottom, as Mr. Martin stated, and they made the best decision they could. Mr. Martin stated that he has the highest respect for Mr. Meyers. He can support him on whatever it is that Mr. Meyers tells him. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business – Mr. Martin spoke about a petition concerning the school bus route on Shady Hill Drive. It will be put on the next agenda. Mr. Bradley stated that there will be a meeting on August 30, 2005.

## **7. Reports to the School Committee**

### **Public Comments (15 minutes)**

Mr. Peter McLaren recognized Brendan Carniaux who went through East Greenwich High School and the Berklee College of Music, and taught his son at North Kingstown High School.

Mrs. Carol Brown spoke about the comment that Mrs. Cienki made to Mrs. Tomecko. Mrs. Brown stated that Mrs. Cienki lied and expects an apology from her. She also questioned the articles that Mrs. Cienki gave to School Committee members concerning

**retaliation by special education directors and a black list.**

**Mr. Judd Brown, 181 Cindynn Drive, stated that he runs an architectural firm and he runs his company on the basis of integrity. Mr. Brown stated he was privy to confidential information because he was married to Carol Brown, Director of Special Education. He knows a lot of confidential information that he will not discuss tonight. Mr. Brown noted that as a town resident he stated that he is appalled by the comments of Mrs. Cienki. He feels Mrs. Cienki personally made a decision to lie. He noted that School Committee members are supposed to represent the town. He said that he told his wife to forget about the back pay and to be aware of what is really taking place on the School Committee. He wonders why so many people have left the schools. Mr. Brown also said that if the School Committee was a company, most of them would be fired.**

**On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. under R.I.G.L 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) as stated for the following reasons: Personnel Issues, Contract Negotiations-Teacher, Paraprofessional, and Custodial, Teacher Grievances, Kindergarten Waiver Issue, Salary Special Education Secretary.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**  
**Secretary**